

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**Testimony of the  
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners  
Letter of Information  
House Bill 467 – Education – Teacher  
Certification – Montessori Schools**

**February 10, 2022**

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners has concerns with House Bill 467 because it seems to provide for two teaching standards in Maryland. In Baltimore City, the Montessori Public Charter School operates in Baltimore City and uses a full Montessori curriculum. There is also in the Baltimore City Public School system Garrett Heights Elementary/Middle that operates a partial Montessori program. From this legislation, it is clear if Garrett Heights would be defined as a “Montessori school,” but the charter school fits the definition.

Currently, all public schools in the state must teach to the Maryland standards, and to do that effectively. The standards set by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education or the Association Montessori International do not align, therefore these teachers would be potentially unprepared to meet Baltimore City or Maryland expectations.

It would also be problematic to hire teachers who were certified to only teach in 1 or 2 of our schools in the Baltimore City Public School System because if staffing is adjusted, these folks would not be eligible to transfer to other schools.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners raises concerns and would hope a discussion can occur prior to the passage of the legislation.

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